To the Honourable, 1480 aa 34.

ROBERT VERNER.
ROBERT SMART,
BAILIES OF
MUSSELBURGH;

PATRICK HERRIOT Younger, Treasurer,
And Remanent Worthy Members of the Town-Council, and much Honoured Heritors in the Town and Parish of *MUSSELBURGH.*

Much Honoured and Worthy Gentlemen,

SEEING that Mr. *Walter Denneston* my Deceast Husband had the Honour to Teach the School of *Musselburgh* for several Years, which he did, as I suppose, not without Applause; I presume to Dedicate to your Honours this Poem of his in *Latine*, which I have caus'd to be turn'd to *English*; Your Honours Patronizing of it will evidence the Kindness you had to your Poor Poet, and Tenderness you have for his Memory; And I and my Numerous most Indigent Children, shall ever Pray for the Prosperity of your most Ancient Town and School.

CHRISTIAN DENNESTON

MYTILOPOLIS
SIVE
MUSSELBURGI
Oppidi Antiquissimi, Elogium.

FORTE sub Auroram (quamprimum Phœbus EOO-
Littore surgebat, radijsq; retexerat Orbem
Alituumq; genus suavi modulamine vocis,
Aëra mulcebant testantes gaudia cantu
Præcipuè dulces fundebat ab ore querelas,
Cassita præpetibus tendens gaudia ad nubila pennis
Balantumque greges tondebant gramina circum)
Lentus oberrabam Campos propé nobilis Escæ
Ostia, spumantes ubi se diffundat in undas
Plurimas, et virides sinuoso gurgite ripas,
Prætexit, Lambitq; levi cum murmure muros
Urbis honoratum tribuit cui Mytilus omen
Hanc fore abundantem victu, & nullius egentem,
Artibus ingenuis famosam & Legibus æquis.
Hæc animo dubium, facies blandissima rerum
Traxit ut aggrederer (quanquam me absterreat ausis
Conscia debilitas) præclara encomia laudum
Urbis et amnis item generoso pangere versu.
Principio, si vera fides tribuenda receptæ
Jamdudum famæ viguit, rebusq; secundis
Floruit innumeris Urbs Mytilonensis ab annis
Ante alias inter quam prænituisset Edinæ
Metropolis regniq; Caput jam, soleq; Princeps
Quinetiam, si non fallant presagia votem,
Prospera & incolumis durabit nostra, ruinam
Cum dabit illa suis penitus viduata Colonis.
Nec solum antique clarescit origine famæ
Sed virtute foret cives opibusque potentes,,

Quorum.

A PANEGYRICK,

On the most Antient Town of

MUSSELBURGH:

ONCE in a Morning (when the Sun did rise
From th'Eastern Shoar, and gild the Earth and Skies,
When all the Airie Quiristers did sing
Their Anthems, and Congratulate the Spring,
When Larks Spring's Heraulds did extend their Throats,
And warble out their bi, sa, bi, mi Notes,
When numerous flocks of mild and bleating Ews,
And sportfull Lambs the Dewie grass did brouze)
'Twas then, I musing walkt along the Plain,
Where Noble *Esk* doth mingle with the Main,
And like *Meander* after it hath run
By various verdant Banks, glides by the Town,
The Antient Town which Mussels did endue
Both with their Name, and happy Omen too,
It should be Blest with *Amalthea's* Horn,
And finest Arts, and Laws it still adorn.
This pleasant prospect did inspirit me,
Tho' Conscious of my Inabilitie,
The Town and River's Praises to rehearse,
Conform to Pow'r, in an Heroick Verse.
Our *Musselburgh*, if any Faith be giv'n
To aged Fame, by th' Auspices of Heav'n,
Was extant, and did flowrish, e're the Town
Of *Edinburgh*, that's now of most Renown;
And if we may believe but Prophesies,
Shall last beyond its Funeral Exequies,
Not only hath this Burgh an Origin
Hoary by Fame, but it doth ever shine:

Her

Quorum magna fuit celebrati nominis olim
Gloria, et in gyros minimè interrupta nepotes
Durat adhuc, famamq; sui diffundit in ævum.
Namq; Magistratus hic claro in honore nitentes
Justitiæ ad trutinam rerum moderantur habenas
In sceleratorum terrorem, & grande bonorum
Præsidium; nostrisq; procul vis exulat oris
Omnis; et exemplum populo dant juris et æqui
Qui primi Leges, illis statuêre salubres.
Artificumq; manus vigili studioso Labore
Urget opus galli sub cantum a lumine primo
Roscidus obscuras donec ferat Hesperus umbras.
Hinc multæ cumulantur opes hinc ampla bonorum,
Copia fabrorum qui curâ & sedulitate
Haud contemnendum nomenq; decusque paravunt.
Hic quoque non paucos commercia inire videbis
Spectatâ virtute homines queis splendida res est.
Mercibus ex crebris peregrino à Littore vectis:
Imprimis autem lignorum hic copia larga
Adfertur, quæ deinde fere exportatur in omnes
Hic circumjectas regiones, non sine fructu.
Nec minor illorum laus est qui cærula verrunt,
Indomitiq; maris tot monstra natantia cernunt,
Perq; tot adversos fluctus feliciter audent
Carpere iter, levibusq; animum concredere ventis.
Spe lucri extremos properantes currere ad ludos,
Ut referant secum longinqua per æquora merces,
Unde sibi ac alijs succurrant rebus in arctis,
Publicaq; externâ locupletent commoda gazâ.
Adde quod et quæstus veniat non parvus ab ipsis
Piscibus æquoreis (quorum vel nomina sola,
Difficile in Numeris esset Comprendere Nostris)
Quos Piscatorum solers industria captat
Retibus implicitos simili vel fraude retentos.
Quodque fidem exsuperat tot cenchas scrupea arena
Nutrit, ut inde cibum tolerent permulta diurnum
Millia nonnunquam, presertim in rebus egenis:
Undique enim accurrunt tunc temporis, & sibi tollet

BRITISH MUSEUM 13 45 OCT

Quantum

Her Citizens of old were Rich and Wise,
And 'bove their Neighbours did their Trophies raise,
And she and her Posterity still claim
A Paramount uninterrupted Fame:
For they who in this Burgh the Scepter sway
Do Rule accotding to *Astrea's* way,
Punish the Bad, the Good do Patronize,
And th' People them as Patterns duely prize.
The Tradesmens nimble hands begin to work
At Cock crow, leave not off till it grow dark,
Their Labours do enrich them and the Town,
Where *Smiths* are numerous and of great Renown.
How many by their Trafficking o're Seas,
Tho' Rich, more splendid make their Families;
Much Timber is brought from the Forreign Shoar,
Not without gain sent all the Country o're.
They Merit greater Praise, who Plow the Sea,
And hideous Monsters swiming there descry,
Who trust their Life to *Æolus*, and feel
Waves mount to Heav'n, and then Descend to Hell,
For Gain: who from both *Indias* Transfer
Hither the Rich Commodities are there.
Add! No small gain from Fishes doth arise,
Our Fishers catch with Nets, and other ways,
Whose very Names in verse *I* can't comprise:
'Tis strange! so many Mussel Scapps are here,
As Nourish when the food is scarce and dear,
Some Thousands of the poor who hither come,
Yet still leave Plenty, when they return home,
Even as a Fountain satisfies the Thirst,
Of Myriads, yet's full as at the first,
And store of Fishes great and small are giv'n,
To the indigent, by th' influence of Heav'n,
Which Numerous Troops of Femals every Day,
To the Metropolis and Lieth Convey,
Which there they sell, and only by this Gain,
They with good chear their Families sustain,
Eastward from hence not far, an infinite Traine,

Quantum quiſque volet nec earum opulentia deſit.
Non ſecus ac Liquidas per prata virentia labens
Fonticulus diffundit aquas ſitientibus, & ſe
Armentis Gregibuſque hibendum præbet, at idem
Uſque manet, pleno neque deficit alveus amni.
Hic quoque pauperibus larga indulgentia Cæli
Teſtaceos piſces renovat ſine fine minutos,
Fæminei ſexûs quos agmina plurima quales
Excipiunt portantque humeris Letham *vel* Edinam,
Piſciculoſque alios ibi quos divendere certant,
Et ſolo hoc quæſtu Tranquillè vivitur illis.
Nec procul hinc ortum verſus vis magna quotannis.
Halecum capitur quibus haud mediocria multis
Commoda proveniunt, ſed piſcatoribus hiſce
Imprimis, quibus hos ipſos Fabricatur in uſus
Ingens cymbarum numerus, cum retibus aptis
Atq; armamentis alijs: adeóq; recepi
Millia dena ab eis ſimul unâ capta ſagenâ,
Quæ ſale conditas externo in littore vendunt
Sepius, et gratum referunt hac merce Lucellum.
Pene ſed oblitus fueram quibus incrementis
Creverit hæc primum Reſpublica, dicere verſu
Scilicet in media degentes Urbe (quod uſu
Perrarò obtingit) cives virtutibus amplis
Conſpicui, non turpe putârunt vomere Terram
Findere, & apricis infundere ſemina campis.
Sic cura aſſiduâ Domitis fœliciter arvis.
Expectata ſeges lætis provenit ariſtis,
Ruris opeſque brevi granaria noſtra replerunt;
Hinc & moliri experunt tecta Domorum
Plurima, & ad fruges capiendas horrea Larga
Condere, cum uſtrinis alijſque ad braſia natis.
Nec ſolum frumenta ſuis naſcentia in agris
Sed circum circa Cerealia dona coempta
Ad varios uſus huc invexêre priores:)
Nempe ſiligineam ex alijs fecêre farinam
Ad confirmandas humano in corpore Vires,
Ex alijs autem potum elicuere ſalubrem
Hoc pacto: in dulcem mutatur ab arte polentam

Of Herrings Yearly, do swarm from the Main,
To the advantage of all CALEDON,
But Greater of the Fishers in this Town,
Who many Boats and Nets have for that end,
And which should be best Loadned do contend;
If Fame may be believ'd, some at one draught,
About ten Thousand of these Herrings Caught,
Which salted they send to the Forreign Shoar,
And for Exchainge get Merchant Goods or Ore,
I'de near forgot, how this our Common-weall,
Commenc'd, did to this present Grandour swell,
These who liv'd in the middle of the Town,
Embellish'd with all Virtues and Renown,
Were not asham'd, and which is very rare,
To Till the Ground with Ploughs, and sow Seed there;
Thus by their Industrie, the Earth did Ope,
And did Reward them with a fertile Crop,
In a short time, our Granaries were fill'd,
They Houses and large Barns began to build,
With Kills, all other things they did prepare
Which they for Brewing Ale found necessar;
Our worthy Predecessours, not content,
With the Rich Product, their own Lands them sent,
The Gifts of *Ceres* round about they buy,
And them to Various uses did apply:
They made the finest Flouer out of some Grains,
Which *Human* Bodies in their strength mantains,
From others did extract a wholesom Drink,
Thus made of Sir *John Barlie Corn*, I think.
They turn'd the Knight to Malt, by wondrous Art,
And then to Ale, which Liquor doth impart
The choicest blessings It doth warm Mans Breast,
Quicken his Mule, and sooner quench his Thirst,
Than either Water, or then Fourtie-nine,
Or briskest Claret: It's drink Divine.
Such plenty of this Liquor then was there,
In the Metropolis it was so Rare,
That they Supplyed all *Edinburgh* with Ale,

And

Hordeum, et ex illo coquitur cervisia cujus
Vis permagna sitim citius depellit & arcet,
Quam vel Aqua, aut validi spumantia pocula Bacchi,
Aut quivis alius, me judice, potus amœnus.
Illius ubertas hic tanta prioribus annis
Facta erat, eximius proventus ut inde rediret
Civibus & lætis clueret Respublica rebus.
Sed quid ego ingratus cesso laudare Scholarem
Hic disciplinam, tot jam per secula multis
Nominibus claram? varioſq; referre Labores
Ingenioſæ subit quos nocte dieque Juventus
Nostra, Palæmonias edocta fideliter artes:
Sive in Grammaticis libeat certare palestris,
Et vocum obscuros sensus indagine mirâ
Eruere, ac hostem validis prosternere telis.
Seu magè Rhetorices placeat descendere in hortos,
Et varios illinc pulchroſq; excerpere flores,
Ut decor & nitidus sermonibus insit amictus.
Seu vacet Historias priscosq; evolvere ritus,
In quibus Heroum tot gesta insignia cuncto
Digna ævo, in chartis descripta perennibus extant:
Et preclara virûm dicta edoctura juventam,
Quâ ratione queant prudenter ducere vitam,
Et rerum eventus animo explorare futuros.
Sunt quoq; qui medullis valde obtestantur amœnis
Sive velint cantu lætas ad sidera voces
Tollere, vel plectro citharam pulsare sonoram,
Exulet unde dolor, tristesq; è pectore curæ.
Deniq; nonnullos pangendi carminis ardor
Mirificè capit, ac Musarum adsuescere castris
A teneris juvat, & studijs dare tempora blandis
Pieridum, Aonias rupes et amœna colentum
Vel juga parnassi, celsive cacumina pindi.
Quales ex nostro multi exivêre Lycæo
Dotibus ingenij insignes, & acumine mentis
Posteâ non leve qui nomen gessêre decusq;
Rebus in humanis, virtute ac arte nitentes.
Scilicet eximiæ præstantes munere linguæ

Rhetores

And by theſe means enricht our commonweal.
But why do I like an Ungrateful Fool,
Suſpend my Panegyricks on this School,
Which we for many Ages famous find,
For Cultivating each ingenious mind,
And them adorning with each curious Art,
Palemon hath, or *Pallas* can impart,
Whether they chooſe themſelves to exerciſe
In the *Gramatic-Camp*: they in a Trice
Are taught obſcureſt Senſes to find out.
Their Adverſaries drop down at their foot,
No leſs Succeſsful are they, when they pleaſe
To cull Flowers out of *Rhetoric's* Paradiſe,
Or when they revolve Hiſtories to find,
The Antients Rites, and Sentiments of mind,
The *Heros* Feats, and maxims of the Sage,
Are worthie of the praiſes of each Age,
Which Youth inſtruct how they ſhould them behave,
And make their Fame ſurvive the very Grave.
Or when themſelves to *Muſick* they apply,
And elevat their voices to the Sky,
To Baniſh Care and Sorow, or are bent
With ſkilful hand to tune each Inſtrument,
Nor are they leſs proficients, whom deſire
Hath liſted in *Apollo's* Sacred Quire:
The very Muſes do their skill admire.
How many hath our ſweet *Lyceum* ſent
Abroad, adorn'd with every Ornament!
The Glory of their Countrie and there Name,
Who through the Univerſe diffuſ'd their *Fame*?
As Orators of an exalted Senſe,
Endu'd with *Ciceronian* Eloquence,
And Paſtors who do preach the Sacred truth,
With as much fluence as the Golden mouth,
And Doctors who in Medicine expreſs

More

Rhetores, et ſacri referantes dogmata verbi
Paſtores, Medicique, homines mirâ arte levantes,
Militiæq; duces conſultó bella gerentes,
Solerteſque Sophi, doctis cum Jureperitis,
Innumeriſq; alijs famâ ſuper Æthera notis.
Hic qui profectus cunctis fecere ſecundos.
Sub ferulâ in noſtrâ ſummâ cum laude, paleſtrâ.
Primus at ante alios fuit illuſtriſſimus Heros.
A Lauderdaliâ titulum Deductus avitum,
Quem Schola noſtra ſuum preclarum jactat alumnum
Cui natura dedit quicquid ſperare vel auſus
Quiſpiam erat. Regum claris nutritus in aulis;
Scilicet ingenij ſolertis nobile acumen,
Eloquijq; decus, per quod fera pectora poſſet
Flectere, et hoſtiles animos ſibi reddere amicos.
Quo Procerum nemo fuerat preſtantior unquam.
Sive fidem in Regem ſpectes animive vigorem,
Namque à conſiliis illi fuit uſque fidelis,
Quem quoque in exilium rebus comitatus in arctis,
Carceris eſt fœdi perpeſus tœdia ſeque
Preſtitit invictum contra omnia dura, minaſque
Hoſtium: & in tanto rerum diſcrimine, clarum
Exhibuit cunctis ſpecimen virtutis honeſtæ,
Conſtantiſque animi mala tot pro Rege ferentis.
Ipſe ſed interea ſtudijs intentus, amara
Ut potuit miſeræ lenibat tempora vitæ
Ac velut injectum calidis fornacibus aurum
Purius elicitur poſtquam purgatur ab igni,
Noſter item adverſis jam confirmatus & aſpris,
Quam ſit fluxa fides rebus tribuenda caducis.
Edidicit, Sophiæq: dedit ſe inquirere in artes,
Et veterumq; libris quos nocte dieq; terebat
Doctior & melior factus moderamine rerum

Pulchre

More skill than *Galen* or *Hyppocrates*,
Philosophers and Captains might compete
With *Alexander* or his *Stagyrite*,
And *Advocats*, and Lawyers may compare
With any e're Adorn'd the Bench or Barr.
To pass a number of illustrious Fame,
Learn'd at our School, and did decore the same,
I take the leave t' expatiat but on one,
Great *Lauderdale*, the praise of *Albion*,
To whom both GOD and Nature did bequeath:
All properties which one dare crave, or hath:
A Sublime wit, a most acute Ingine,
Such Eloquence as Tygers might incline
To mildeness, and his Enemies might move
To lay aside their Malice, and him Love,
No Peer surpass'd our Duke in any thing,
Far less in his Fidelite to the King.
He him accompanied in his exile,
Endur'd the hardships of a tedious Jayle
And with such courage, neither pain, nor threat,
Him from his bounden loyalty could fright:
In th' interim he strove to mitigate,
By plying Books, his Melancholick state
And as the Furnace doth the Gold refine,
He by thele firie Tryals did more shine:
He gleaned from the Studies he did ply
Not only what his sufferings did allay,
But learn'd such Lessons in his *Anti-Calm*
As fitted him in storm to steer the Helm.
In highest Posts: The Universe doth own
No Richer Bayes did e're a *Scots-Man* Crown.
But there is nought commends this Burgh so much,
But that by concord 'tis still growing Rich:
The Magistrats the Peoples good design,

Pulchrè intellexit, ſibi grande decùs parabit,
Pænèque linguarum cunctarum callus usum.
Sed nihil eſt quod plus populum commendet & urbem
Quam ſpectata fides hominùm, concordia; illa
Mutua quâ rebus da ur amplificatio parvis.
Nempe Magiſtratus populorum commoda quærunt,
Inq; vicem cives illos metuuntq; colunque,
Juſtitiæq; tenor placidè ſervatur & æqui.
Hic benè Pastori dilecto cum grege ſemper
Convenit atque illum meritò venerantur amantq;
Utpote Divini qui ſacra oracula verbi
Explicet exactè rectæ ad rationis amuſſim,
Et veterum juxta conſenſum accommodet aptè,
Exemploq, ſuo fugienda ſequ ndaq; monſtret.
Nam velut Arcturus cœlo nitidiſſimus alto
Inter crura Bootæ exardet lumine puro,
Noſter item Arcturus vitæ integritate, fideque,
Moribus ingenuis virtute, ac arte refulget.
Sed jam tempus adeſt noſtris committere chartis
Urbis agrorumq ſitum campoſq; propinquos
Et quid continent memorabile porro referre,
Imprimis Urbem tot retro ſecùla conſtat
Duraviſſe (velut teſtantur tecta vetuſta)
Ut prima illius fruſtra inquiratur origo.
At certum eſt noſtros Majores tempore priſco
Propter aquæ rivum, pelagiq; ſtrepentis ad undas
Urbem in planitie viridi poſuiſſe decoram:
Quam generoſa ſuis mediam, ſecat Elca fluentis,
Multipliceſq; Molas ſpumoſo gurgite verſat,
(In quibus alma Ceres lapidum contunditur ictu)
Cuibús & latices varios diffundit in uſus,
Præter inexhauſtas in lato flúmine lymphas.
Hinc crebri pontes ſaxoſo fornice flexi,
Cumque aliis multis tranſverſo è robore factis,

Und

The People count to honour them, their gain;
The Paſtor loves his Flock: the loyal Sheep
Would him within their very Boſom keep:
Becauſe he gives them wholeſom Food, that's free
From leaven of unreaſonable noveltie,
And as *Arcturus* or the Famous Wain
That doth direct the Mariners through the Main,
So our *Arthurus* by the brighteſt Light
Of his Example doth diſpel our Night.
'Tis now high time e're I this Writing Crown,
I touch the Scituation of the Town,
And of its Fields, and view the Neighbouring plains,
Relate what Rar'ties each of theſe contains.
The Ancient Ædifices manifeſt
The Burgh's duration, many Ages paſt,
So many, all agree, it would be vain
To trace its immemorial Origin.
'Tis certain that the Neighbourhood of *Forth*,
Where Noble *Esk* doth pour its Waters forth,
And th' Verdant plain, whereon the Town doth ſtand,
Determin'd our Forebears to take in hand
Th' erecting of this Honourable Town,
Through midſt of which our pleaſant *Esk* doth run,
And with a never fading current turn
The many Mills wherewith we Grind our Corn,
And here, and there in rivulets doth flow,
To all our pleaſure and advantage too,
Beſides that inexhanſted ſtream which falls
In its main Channel and runs by the Wals.
Our Arched Bridgs their origin hence took,
Beſides the many made of Planks of Oak,
On which our worthy Citizens repair
Both to their houſes, and their Gardens rare;
And which is true, tho ſome may think it ſtrange,

Our

Unde patet domibus pulebroſque acceſſus ad hortos.
Quodque peregrinis mirum foſſaſſe videri
Poſſit, in his hortis ſalmones tollere dextrâ,
Arboribuſque licet lævâ decerpere fructus.
Hic locus Heſperidum ferme pomaria vincit
Fœtibus arboreis præſtantibus atque decoris.
Qualia ſunt ceraſa & fragrantia poma, volema,
Cerea pruna, nuces, & mala cydonia, ficus,
Perſica poma, rubi, pyra, meſpila, amygdala, & uvæ
Cum pene innumeris quos commemorare moleſtum eſt.

FINIS.

Our Citizens need not as others range,
To sport: They'l take, and in their Orchyard stand,
Salmon with one, and Pears with th' other hand,
This place Hesperian Orchyards doth excel
For Fruits of pleasant aspect, Tast, and Smell.
As Cherries, Fragrant *Apples*, Longovile,
And Pears of such a magnitude they fill
More then the hand, and prunes of equal size,
Most charming to the appetit, and eyes,
The Damask Plums, Figs, Peaches, Medlars, Nuts,
Quinces, and Almonds, Berries, Bacchus Fruits,
And many Thousands more, my empty Vein,
Cannot relate untill refresh'd with Wine.

FINIS.